

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 AID-05 EB-07 USIA-06 NASA-01

PA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 SS-15

NSC-05 /063 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RBMORLEY/JNACH:MMK

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NEA/INS:BWBROWN

NEA/P:MHVAN ORDER

S/PRS:MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

AID/NESA:CHREES

EB/OFPP:CCAVANAUGH

USIS:CSNOW (INFO)

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P 282305Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS - PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: STATE 20306

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE DEPARTMENT'S
SPOKESMAN FOR USE ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS, REPLACING GUID-
ANCE IN REFTEL.

Q: WHAT HAS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DONE IN RESPONSE TO MRS.
GANDHI'S LATEST ROUND OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS ALLEGING
POSSIBLE CIA ACTIVITIES IN INDIA?

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A: WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT THESE TOTALLY

UNJUSTIFIED CHARGES TO SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT IN NEW DELHI AND WASHINGTON. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DESCRIBE OUR EXCHANGES WITH THE GOI FURTHER AT THIS TIME.

Q: I HAVE HEARD THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS WITHDRAWN ITS OFFER OF ECONOMIC AID FOR INDIA. CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS?

A: WE HAVE DECIDED TO POSTPONE TALKS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE UNTIL FY 77. THIS DECISION IS NOT LINKED TO ANY SINGLE EVENT. AT PRESENT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AN ATMOSPHERE EXISTS IN WHICH WE SHOULD GO FORWARD WITH DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

Q. WHAT ABOUT OTHER ELEMENTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA, SUCH AS THE JOINT COMMISSION?

A: WE INTEND THAT THE VARIOUS EVENTS RELATED TO THE JOINT COMMISSION SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS PLANNED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE JOINT BUSINESS COUNCIL WILL MEET AS SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEW DELHI FEBRUARY 2-4.

Q: HAS FOOD AID TO INDIA BEEN AFFECTED?

A: THE ONGOING PROGRAM OF FOOD GRANTS UNDER TITLE II FOR DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA BY U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL BE CONTINUED. WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOI ON A PROPOSED TITLE I PL 480 FOOD SALE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AMOUNTS TO BE PROVIDED UNDER TITLE I ARE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION.

Q: I UNDERSTAND THE USG HAS TURNED DOWN AN INDIAN REQUEST THAT THEY BE PERMITTED TO USE THE SITE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE BEYOND THE ORIGINAL AUGUST 1 TERMINATION DATE. IS THIS TRUE, AND IS THE DECISION LINKED TO RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS IN INDIA IN ANY WAY?

A: THE GOI REQUEST HAS BEEN TURNED DOWN. BOTH SIDES UNDERSTOOD FROM THE OUTSET THIS WAS TO BE A ONE YEAR PROGRAM. NASA INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT SOME TIME AGO THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY HAVE FIRM COMMITMENTS AFTER AUGUST 1 WHICH REQUIRE THAT THE SATELLITE BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE UNITED STATES. IT WAS THEREFORE NOT POSSIBLE TO APPROVE THE INDIAN REQUEST. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, PRESS CONFERENCES, ANTIAMERICAN FEELING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE021488
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RBMORLEY/JNACH:MMK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760033-0194
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760112/aaaaakfe.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 20306
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS - PRESS GUIDANCE
TAGS: EAID, PFOR, IN, US
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006